

Small Group Questions

Sermon Based Small Groups – April 17, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: The Outspoken Coward
Sermon Series: Four – An Easter Story

Notes:

Pray: Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

Ice Breaker: Talk about a time in your life where you were afraid. What were the circumstances? What did you do? How do you respond to fear in your life?

Discuss: Pastor Brian's sermon this week was about how Peter responded to the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. He talked about how so many people relate to the Apostle Peter. Based upon what you know about Peter, what are some aspects of his character that you relate to?

Are there some traits in the lives of some of the other disciples that you identify with, or wish that you could identify with?

Read: Read the following passages from Peter's life and record what most strikes you about Peter from the stories:

Scripture Reference	What I See in Peter's Life
John 1:35-42	
Matthew 14:27-36	
Matthew 15:15	
Matthew 16:13-28	
Matthew 17:1-13	
Matthew 18:21-22	
Matthew 19:16-30	

Four – An Easter Story
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Read: Matthew 26:31-35

Discuss: It had been a week unlike any other for the disciples. The week began with crowds shouting, “Hosanna,” and seeking to declare Jesus as Messiah, and was ending with Jesus talking about his disciples falling away and dying. How do you think you would have felt if you were Peter in Matthew 26:31-35?

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you could speak up for Christ but chose to do the opposite? How did it make you feel?

How can we develop the courage to speak up for Christ?

Read: Mark 8:34-38

Discuss: What is Christ trying to teach His disciples about living for Him?

Read: Matthew 26:69-75

Discuss: How does Mark 8:34-38 reconcile with what we read in Matthew 26:69-75? What do these passages teach us about Christ? What do they teach us about Peter?

Read: John 21

Discuss: This final chapter in John’s Gospel teaches us some more great lessons about Jesus and Peter. What are some of the things that you learn about both in this passage?

Pray: As you pray, ask God to give you the courage to live for Him in this generation. Ask the Lord to give you opportunities to stand up for Him this week. Ask God to show you who in your sphere of influence might be open to coming to church on Easter Sunday. Take the risk! Invite someone who needs Jesus to come to church with you next week. Let’s pray for God to be glorified in our Easter celebration.